

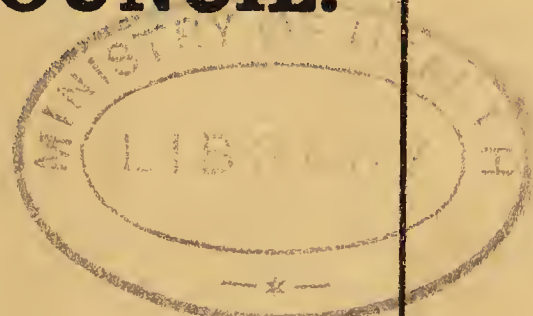
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**ROTHBURY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1925.

ROTHBURY :

Snaith & Co., Printers, Bridge Street.



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The Rothbury Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1925.

ROTHBURY,

June 18th, 1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN,

LORD ARMSTRONG AND GENTLEMEN.

Allow me to submit to you, this, my 30th Annual Report, being that for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

Your District includes 948 acres, and the population may be estimated at 1700. The inhabited houses are 340, there being 7 new ones added since the Census of 1921. The Rateable value at March, was £6,684. The year's rate was at $3/4$, and raised £1089. For Poor Law purposes the rate was at $4/4$. Thus the total rate was at $7/8$ in the £1. A rate of 1d in the £1 raises about £28.

The district lies mainly in the valley of the Coquet river; the soil being a sandy peat, resting on boulder clay, with freestone or sandstone grit under this, Carboniferous Limestone under that. This leads to the outcrop of some fine soft water spings, but in this district at too low a level to be available for supply purposes. There are no large manufactories in the district, all purely local. It is largely a health and pleasure resort.

It is desired by the Ministry of Health, that this report shall embody a five years retrospect.

The amounts of your Indebtedness, are : (1) The **Cemetery** stood at £60 with 3 years to run, is at this date, cleared. There was £1590 borrowed, conjoint with the Rural district, your share being £606; (2) The **Sewerage**, at an original cost of £5250 was laid down in 1910, with 30 years to run. It has now 16 years to run, paying off about £180 of capital, and £104 of Interest, being £284 annually, at a rate of 10d in the £1. There is about £2,500 debt standing; (3) Your share of the Union House (**Silverton**) being one-eighth of the total debt standing of £1144, with 15 years to run, this of course is chargeable to the Guardians rate. Built in 1905 at a cost of £5180.

At **Silverton House**, (The Union) there was a daily average of 12 belonging to the districts, with 16 Feeble minded women belonging to Newcastle, and paid for by them. The number of Casuals admitted was 805 against 743 last year. The average for the last 5 years, has been 710.

The amount of out door relief paid in the Union was £1240, against £901 of the year before. This is largely due to the closing down of the Lee Colliery; some may be paid back. Under the new Widows and Pensions Act, practically all will be taken off that list.



The **Number of Births** that occurred during the year, was 22, against only 12 of last year; Of these, 15 were males, and 7 females; this is at a rate of 13·0 per 1000 per annum, last year being only 7·0. That for England and Wales is 18·3, also being low. During the last 5 years, the average rate has been at 10·2 only. The births occurred, during the first quarter 5, the second 5, the third 4, and the last 8. Two of these did not survive their first year of existence, and hence died in infancy. One of these was the child of a Casual of Silverton House, and hence, did not belong to the district really, it was aged 5 weeks, died of malnutrition, being uncertified. The other was aged 8 months, and due to Pneumonia. This is at a rate of 45·4 per 1000 born. For the last 5 years it has been at a rate of 55·0. That for England and Wales is 75 per 1000 born, which is low. The previous 2 years, your rate was nil. There were none born out of wedlock, as last year. The percentage for successful vaccination was 86 per 100 born.

The **Deaths** registered in the district were 24, of which, 6 did not belong here, and are transferred out. Of these 3 at Silverton House, one belonged to the Rural district, and died of Pneumonia, being a female aged 27, and came there, in a dying condition. One was a Casual Infant mentioned. The other was one of the feeble minded belonging to Newcastle a female aged 27 with Goitre and heart trouble. Of the other three, one came suffering from Tuberculosis of the lungs, a male aged 44 years, from Carlisle; the room being disinfected and re-papered, etc., afterwards; another, a male aged 56 died of Heart disease whilst visiting here, and the last, a female aged 52 whilst on a visit, died of Apoplexy. On the other hand, two who belonged here, died whilst away, having gone to the Royal Infirmary for treatment, one being due to malignant disease, and the other a Colliery

accident. Thus in all, there were 20 belonging to the district against 14 only, last year. This is a rate of 11·7 per per annum only, and is very favourable. That for England and Wales is 12·2 being also low. Your average rate for the last 5 years, is only 9·6. Of the total, 9 were males, and 11 females. Under 1 year of age, there was one due to Pneumonia; from 25 to 45 one; from 45 to 55, four; 14 being over that age, of whom, 5 were over 80 (a female being 89), and two of 75 to 80; from 65 to 75 there were 7. They occurred, during January, 2; February, 5; March, 1; April, 1; May, 1; June, 1; July, 2; September 4; October, 2; November, 1. Regarding the causes, there were none due to the usually so called Zymotic or Epidemic diseases. **Phthisis** (Tuberculosis of the lungs) caused one, a young woman aged 30, who was previously notified and improved, but relapsed. All care had been taken, and room, etc., disinfected. There were not any due to other forms of Tuberculosis. Your rate thus, is 0·58, whilst for the last 5 years, it has been at an average of 0·35 only. **Cancer** caused 3, all in females, and abdominal; the ages being 49, 67 and 67. There is no doubt, there is an increase in the deaths from this serious disease. At the present time a great deal of investigation and research is going on just now, at home and abroad, and it is hoped some practical results may accrue, a Bacillus has been isolated. Your average per annum for the last five years, has been between 3 and 4. The room should be disinfected and all things in it washed well also. **Pneumonia**, 1 in a child aged 8 months. **Heart Disease**, caused 7, three were very sudden, the Coroner holding an inquiry respecting one. One being un-notified. The youngest was 56, six being over 69 years of age. **Nephritis** caused 2, **Schlerosis** 1, **Accident** caused one, due to a fall of stone at Healeycote colliery, pneumonia supervening on a broken leg, etc. Liver disease 1, Senile decay 2, and other causes 1. As the deaths were

20 in number, and the the births 22, there were only 2 naturally added to the population, being a rate of only 1·1, that for England and Wales being about 5·5; for the last 5 years, the average has been only 0·7. As concerning the **Strangers**, as mentioned, 3 died in Silverton House, and 3 in the Town—one of Phthisis, one of Heart disease, and one of Apoplexy.

There are 2 Institutions in your district, that receive patients for treatment: (1) **Silverton House**, one was the child of a Casual that died of Malnutrition, one a female aged 27 of Pneumonia, from the Rural district, and one of the feeble minded women belonging Newcastle, of Goitre and Heart trouble. There are 16 of these feeble-minded young women belonging to Newcastle, and paid for by the same, also residing here; (2) The **Cottage Hospital** where during the year, 13 Patients belonging to the Urban and Rural districts, were admitted for treatment etc., there being no deaths. There were also received 29 Convalescents from outside the districts.

In the **County Mental Hospital** at Morpeth, there were 17 patients belonging to the entire Union, 2 were discharged, 1 died, and three new ones admitted. Only 1 belongs to your district. The charge per head has been reduced from 29/2 per week, to 23/11 at present.

There is no Common lodging house in the district now, and there were no proceedings before the Magistrates.

The Coroner held enquiries respecting 3 deaths, all sudden heart illnesses.

You have agreed to adopt the model byelaws of the Ministry of Health.

Under the **Notification of Infectious Diseases Act**, there were 8 cases notified, including Scarlet Fever

5 cases, Chicken Pox 1, Erysipelas 1, Pneumonia 1; the Scarlet Fever cases were all over 5 years of age. The first case was in a girl aged 6 years who came from Stannington where it was, on May 19, and developed it on the 21st. She soon recovered. All care, isolation, and disinfection were taken, and it did not spread. Then came a group of 4 cases in December, the first notified on December 12th (two cases), December 14th and 29th. I could not help thinking, some child at school had it very mildly. All there was disinfected. These were all isolated and care taken. The Chicken Pox was in a child visitor from Sunderland; all care was taken, and it did not spread. It was on August 16. The Erysipelas was in an adult, on the face in December, at Walby Hill. The Pneumonia was in an infant aged 8 months, and proved fatal. The Influenza was a good deal in evidence, but not generally in a serious form; an occasional case of Pneumonia appeared. Still people should keep away from it, as it is very infectious. School attendances suffered. One case of **Tuberculosis**, in the Lungs (**Phthisis**), was notified, in a young man aged 21. It was taken in hand early; he went to Wooley Sanatorium on April 6, and was discharged, relieved, on July 24. All care was taken following instructions given. He is in an outside shelter.

Bacteriological Examinations were made and notified in 5 specimens, from 3 persons. They were all for Tuberculosis and all pronounced negative. I have not heard of, nor seen any in Cattle.

The **Isolation Hospital** near Whitton Burn, is in the Rural district, and is maintained conjointly with the Rural District Council, your contribution to upkeep being one-eighth. It is tenanted by a workman and family, no Caretaker being able to be procured readily, the Council

decided to close it. It was not asked for by your Board, but was twice used by the Rural, for Small Pox. This part of it, with 3 Beds, is not in at all a suitable condition. A conference was held at Alnwick, and discussed the joining together of 5 Boards for a conjoint one, and I must say, this seems to me, the most practical way out of the difficulty. The other part, closely adjoining is in good condition, for other infectious disease, with 8 beds needs some attention.

The returns notified to me by the Practitioners in the district, are sent weekly to the Ministry of Health, and the County Council.

Under the **Factory and Workshops Act**, there are 5 businesses using machine power. A Saw mill, Printer, Ærated Water Co., Plumber and Flour Mill. All are insanitary condition. There are 24 Workshops, consisting of: Tailors 2, Bootmakers 3, Dressmaker 1, Milliner 1, Builders 2, Joiners 2, Photographer 1, Beer bottler 1, Gas Company 1. All being in sanitary order. We made 65 visits. There are no underground bakeries, and no systematic outside workers.

Under the **Dairy and Cows Sheds Act**, there are 9 persons who keep Cows, and sell the Milk, none have adopted the A1 standard, and none is stored. In all, they keep about 23 Milking Cows, and supply 105 Quarts daily. The utensils are kept clean, and so are the byres generally. They limewash when the animals are turned out. They are kept outside as much as possible, all year round, all having fields or pastures to put them on. They keep the byres ventilated, by open doors and windows, as well as ventilators. Generally, they are well drained, and good water supply except on the Hillside, where steps are now being taken to lay on a good supply. At times, a few

words of caution or advice are needed, given and attended to. Residing outside your district, there are 4 Farmers who keep Dairy Cows and send milk into the district. They mostly cool it as soon as milked. They keep 66 Cows and supply 190 Quarts daily; all there is in order. We made 52 visits. No Cows have been reported Tubercular, and we have not seen any supposed to be so. One application was made for Milk supply and granted. The price has varied through the year, at from 6d to 7d per Quart delivered to the house. None is yet sold in bottles. A good deal of condensed milk is used.

The **Slaughter Houses**, 3 in number, are generally kept clean and limed. One has this much too near the house back door, and promises to re-build. One butcher had to be cautioned as regards the keeping of the offal. N. Wilson has made a very great improvement in the light, air, and ventilation of his shop. We made 130 visits.

The **Schools** The Secondary School has 54 on its books. Considerable discussion is going on as to its closure, but it is hoped this will not materialize. Some improvements could be made to the present buildings. The sanitary arrangements are good. The Elementary School, has 154 on its books. There is good accommodation and sanitary arrangements also good a little repair having been needed.

The **Water Supplies**. The main Town supply, belongs to a private company, but they have now agreed to sell the same to your Council, for the sum of £4500. The sanction of the Ministry of Health, has been obtained, some formalities seem to be causing delay. It was laid down in 1866, and a 99 years lease granted of the Swan Well Spring, which has 53 years to run. This could not reach the higher levels of the Hillside, and now the Council are taking steps to get a separate pipe laid from the Main Spring, as the Water Company would not do

this. It will cost under £1800 probably. This is an excellent soft water good for all household purposes, and free of all possible contamination, being piped from the spring. For further information, please see my former reports. The Hillside was greatly in need of a regular and good water supply.

The **Sewerage System** was laid down in 1910, at a cost of £5250, with 30 years to run. There is a debt of £2530 and it has 16 years to run. about £180 of capital, and £45 of interest are paid off annually requiring a rate of about 11d in the pound. It was arranged to provide for 1800 persons, and capable of treating 45,000 gallons in the 24 hours. There are 2 Septic Tanks, and 3 Filter beds working automatically, and attended to, efficiently, by your Inspector. The effluent is practically colourless and odourless. At times a little assistance is necessary. On the Hillside, there are several separate septic tank constructions for the sewage disposal; they seem all in working order. There are now, no privy middens in the district, except where the level is too high for the Company's water supply to reach. When this is rectified I hope there will be none left, except in very outside places.

There was a bad drain connection in Providence Lane, it has been rectified. Great difficulty is experienced in getting a suitable site for a public Urinal, etc., which is very greatly needed.

The **House Scavenging** by the Council, is now working on the whole very satisfactorily, this is done with the roads, and in all, at a contract price of £100 per annum. The Cart comes round twice weekly, less, up the Hillside. The roads are carefully and systematically attended to by your Surveyor and Inspector. In windy weather some accumulation at the County Council part takes place.

New Houses, there have been 2 built during the year, both over £16 value. The plans were passed, and all in good order. During the last 5 years, there have been 13 built, one of these complying with the regulations, with your assistance.

Your Inspector regularly and systematically goes round portions of the district, reporting to the Board, each meeting.

Since this year came in, an Ambulance through the Red Cross Society, has been obtained for the use of the Urban and Rural districts. It is kept at Mr. Wright's Garage, and can be had for suitable cases at a low charge of 4d per mile, towards its upkeep.

There is an excellent Nursing Association in Rothbury serving here, and 4 miles round. The Nurse has done very good work, having made over 2000 visits besides Maternity, Night and other work. It is of the district type. She also attends a child's welfare centre.

There is also a Health Visitor provided by the County Council, residing at Brinkburn.

There is no Mid-wife residing in the district.

THE PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	1920	In Jan. 1925	In Dec. 1925
Registered	3	3	3
Licensed	3	3	3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

	Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	5	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0

Pneumonia	1	0	1
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Chicken Pox	1	0	0
Total	8	0	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1925.

Age period	New cases				Deaths	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
21	1	0	0	0	0	0
30	0	0	0	0	0	1
	1	0	0	0	0	1

I am indebted to Miss L. Hudson of Cragside, for the following table of rainfall &c. during the year taken there at a height 405 feet above sea level.

The rainfall was 35·16 inches; rain fell on 290 days, and there were 1368 hours of sunshine. February being the wettest month, December the next.

		Inches	Wet days	Hours of Sunshine
JANUARY	...	1·90	17	42
FEBRUARY	...	5 48	18	69
MARCH	...	2·36	27	128
APRIL ..	...	3·11	26	139
MAY ...	...	3·24	30	125
JUNE ..	...	0·13	27	188
JULY ...	...	2·60	29	240
AUGUST	...	2·95	28	101
SEPTEMBER	...	3·80	26	105
OCTOBER	...	2·21	24	105
NOVEMBER	...	2·43	24	77
DECEMBER	...	4·95	14	42
TOTALS	..	35·16	290	1368

APPENDIX.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	948
Population (1925)	...	...	...	1700
Inhabited houses	...	...	..	343
Separate occupiers...	...	...	...	355
Rateable value	...	...	...	£6,684
Sum represented by a penny rate			...	£28

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total Males Females			}	Birth rate 13.0 Death rate 11.7
BIRTHS.		Legitimate	22	15	7	
	Illegitimate	0	0	0		

DEATHS in childbirth	...	...	...	0
Deaths of Infants	...	...	...	1
„ from Measles	...	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea	...	...	...	0
„ „ Pneumonia	...	...	...	1

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (see back)

4. TUBERCULOSIS (see back)

HOUSING.

Number of New houses.	(a)	Total	...	...	2
	(b)	with state assistance			0

Other tables by the Inspector are attached.

Your obedient servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT :

Year ending December 31st, 1925.

Sanitary Officers Order 1922 Art. 19 (12)

Rothbury Urban District. Population - 1700. George Davison, Inspector.		HOUSING.						WATER SUPPLY		DRAINAGE			SANITARY CONVENIENCES.													WORK EFFECTED.	
		Structural defects	Dampness	Unfit for Human Habitation	Defective Spouting	Overcrowding	Nuisances	Insufficient	Unsatisfactory	Foul	Untrapped or dilapidated	Insufficient	Structural defects	Insufficient	Foul	Dairies & Cowsheds	Slaughter Houses	Tents, Vans, etc.	Offensive Trades	Workshops and Workplaces	Nuisances from keeping of animals	Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	Ashpits improperly used	Offensive accumulations	Smoke nuisances	Petrol Stores	SANITARY CONVENIENCES
No. of Inspections made	310	...	...	2	2	3	1	...	..	...	..	...	..	..	30	50	...	...	28	6	...	...	...	...	4	Privies Abolished 1	
No. of defects or contraventions of bye-laws found		...	...	2	2	3	1	20	...	...	1	1	...	1	3	7	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	" Repaired 0	
No. of defects etc. outstanding from previous year		...	..	...	...	3	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Privy Ashpits roofed or repaired 0	
Total		...	...	2	2	3	1	20	...	...	1	1	...	1	3	8	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	4	W.C.'s provided 1	
Number remedied after letter or interview.		...	...	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	6	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	Sanitary bins provided 0	
No. of informal notices served		...	..	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	DRAINAGE.	
Defects remedied thereafter		...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	New drains constructed 2	
No. of statutory notices served		..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Repaired or reconstructed 1	
Defects remedied thereafter		...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Additional gullies prov'd 0	
In progress or being dealt with		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Old gullies replaced 0	
Legal Proceedings		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Scullery sinks provided 0	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	" waste pipes trapped 0	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Yards repaired or re-constructed 1	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	WATER SUPPLY.	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	New service provided 2	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	No. of houses affected 2	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	DISINFECTION	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Houses di-infected 0	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Schools disinfected 0	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Appliances provided 0	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	UNSOUND FOOD.	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Seized or Surrendered 0	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	FOOD & DRUGS ACTS.	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Samples taken 0	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	RIVER POLLUTION.	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Instances remedied 0	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	S.D. Works provided 0	

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910. (ACT V).

Statistics for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

ROTHBURY URBAN DISTRICT		Total for whole district							
Inspector: G. DAVISON									
No. of dwelling houses inspected and recorded		310							
No. of dwelling houses found to be unfit		2							
COMPLAINTS that houses were unfit (a) by householders		1							
(b) by parish Councils		1							
CLOSING ORDERS (a) No. of representations to L.A.		None							
(b) No. of orders made		None							
(c) No. determined after works completed		None							
No. of Houses Voluntarily closed (a) after notice under Sec. 28, 1919		None							
(b) without notice		None							
No. of houses demolished (a) under demolition orders		None							
(b) voluntarily by owners		None							
No. of houses made (a) after informal notice		1							
fit for habitation (b) after service of notice under Sec. 28 1919		None							
(c) after closing order had been made		None							
(d) by Local Authority in default of owner		None							
General character of defects found									
HOUSING ACT 1890 (a) No of representations of obstructive buildings		1							
(b) No. of such buildings demolished		None							
(c) Representations as to unhealthy areas. (Parts I and II.)		None							

